

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ANKARA 05482 161514Z

41

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01

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R 161435Z JUL 76

FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA

TO AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 4281

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

C O N F I D E N T I A L ANKARA 05482

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR UIZEIDUIU

SUBJECT: NEW TURKISH AMBASSADOR TO CYPRUS

REF: NICOSIA 1959

1. THE APPOINTMENT OF CANDEMIR ONHON AS AMBASSADOR TO CYPRUS HAS BEEN RUMORED IN ANKARA, BUT HAS NOT YET BEEN OFFICIALLY CONFIRMED. IN ACCORDANCE WITH REFTEL REQUEST, WE ARE FORWARDING THE FOLLOWING BIO INFORMATION: ONHON WAS BORN IN ISTANBUL, TURKEY IN 1933. HE IS A GRADUATE OF GALATASARAY LYCEE IN ISTANBUL AND THE ANKARA UNIVERSITY FACULTY OF LAW. HE ENTERED THE TURKISH FOREIGN SERVICE IN 1956 AND WAS ON LEAVE OF ABSENCE DURING 1957 AND 1958 FOR MILITARY SERVICE. IN NOVEMBER 1958 HE WAS ASSIGNED TO NATO AS A THIRD AND THEN SECOND SECRETARY. HE ALSO SERVED AS CONSUL IN KOMOTINI, GREECE FROM 1963 TO 1965. FROM 1965 TO 1968 HE WORKED IN NATO AND GREEK-CYPRUS DEPARTMENTS AT THE FOREIGN MINISTRY. FROM 1968 TO 1971 HE SERVED IN CYPRUS AND WAS THEN COUNSELOR IN ATHENS, RETURNING TO ANKARA IN 1972. SINCE 1973 HE HAS SERVED AS CHEF DU CABINET FOR PRESIDENT FARIH KORUTURK.

2. ONHON IS MARRIED AND HAS AT LEAST ONE CHILD. HE AND HIS WIFE, BIRSEN, SPEAK BOTH FRENCH AND ENGLISH ALTHOUGH THEY ARE MORE COMFORTABLE IN THE FORMER. ONHON HAS BEEN DESCRIBED
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PAGE 02 ANKARA 05482 161514Z

AS PRO-WEST, "AN URBANE, HIGHLY SKILLED AND SENSITIVE

DIPLOMAT WHOSE CAREER BEARS WATCHING."

3. WE HAVE FOUND ONHON VERY FRIENDLY AND ACCESSIBLE. HE
AND HIS WIFE ARE AN ATTRACTIVE COUPLE AND ARE HIGHLY SOUGHT
AFTER IN THE DIPLOMATIC SOCIAL CIRCUI THERE. HE IS EXTREMELY
LOYAL TO PRESIDENT KORUTURK.

4. ONHON, IF CONFIRMED, WILL BRING TO HIS NEW JOB AN UNUSUAL
DEPTH OF EXPERIENCE IN CYPRUS-GREECE AFFAIRS, WITH PREVIOUS
SERVICE IN BOTH NICOSIA AND ATHENS, DESK-LEVEL EXPERIENCE IN

THE MFA, AND EXPOSURE TO TOP-LEVEL DECISION-MAKING DURING
THE LAST THREE YEARS.

MACOMBER

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